Foreign Language Study Guide

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RESOURCES

Reading
books, news, apps, flashcards

Read often! Reading is one of the most important parts of understanding a language. Use flashcards and some additional reading every day. Lots of reading resources can be found on apps or online, so be sure to look there - many are free. Some are Quizlet, Anki, and Duoreader. You can find ebooks or order real ones online on sites such as Amazon.

Writing
textbooks, writing partner, social media, classwork

Writing is also crucial! But keep in mind, lots of writing today is done digitally, so practice typing your language along with writing it by hand. You can use textbooks, online resources, and find other language learners or speakers to write to. Try connecting on specialized apps like Speaky, or find study groups on larger platforms like Discord.

Listening
music, videos, podcasts, movies and TV

Make sure you listen to your language - input that you can't fully understand is fine, which will likely be most music and movies, helps you make out the sounds of a language. It is also important to get input you can understand - try listening to podcasts or watching videos that are on your level. Youtube is a great place to find listening material.

Speaking
Italki/apps, others who speak the language, teachers

Speaking and getting conversational experience is very valuable - do it as much as you can. You can try to find a teacher or native speaker of your target language, or you can find teachers or conversational partners online. Services such as Italki will help you connect with language teachers. Don't be afraid to reach out!

Advice

Reach out to teachers or other learners - Set up a study plan with someone else to be accountable. This will help you motivate and make you feel responsible.

Stay strong over summer break - Make a study plan for yourself, and stick to it. Be realistic, but try hard!

Immerse - Study culture, listen to music, try food, and watch media of your language. This should be entertaining!

Strategies

Set small goals regularly - Achieving them will keep you going, and give you a measure of your progress.

Mnemonics - Look up or make your own songs and acronyms. Rhymes help you remember!

Spaced repetition - The idea behind flashcards. Once you learn something, move on and come back to it later: the connection will be stronger if it is harder to remember.

Reminders

Stay consistent! Do a little rather than nothing. If you miss a day, keep going.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes! You are human, mistakes are a chance to learn.

Make it fun! Enjoy your study - mix it up if you feel burnt out.